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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/689,710	10/22/2003	Hiroyuki Taguchi	SHO-0018	4644

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RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
LION BUILDING
1233 20TH STREET N.W., SUITE 501
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

TSUKERMAN, LARISA Z

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/689,710	Applicant(s) TAGUCHI, HIROYUKI	
	Examiner Larisa Z. Tsukerman	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-10, 13, 15 and 17-24 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 21-24 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 7-10, 13 and 17-20 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 15 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03/15/2004</u> . | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Attachmenst.</u> |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3-8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirata (5984698).

In regard to claim 1, Hirata **discloses a connector** (not marked) for connecting a **grounded board 6**, the connector having a **housing 3** for housing a card to be connected, the **housing 3** comprising:

a non-conductive housing main **body** (not marked) having a housing **space 4** for housing the card, the housing space being defined by a first side face and opposing second side faces adjacent to the first side face;

a **contact 1** for connecting the card housed in the housing space 4, the contact 1 being disposed in the housing main body (see Fig.3);

a **first conductor portion 2** (a middle portion 2) for connecting the card housed in the housing space 4, the first conductor portion 2 being disposed in vicinity of the first side face FF and insulated from the contact 1 (see Col. 3, lines 40-50 and Fig. 3); and

a **second conductor portion 2** (side portions 2) disposed in a vicinity of the second side faces SF of the housing main body and insulated from the contact 1;

whereby the first and second conductor portions escaping electric charge electrified on the card to the board when connected to the card and the board.

With regard to the limitation of **claim 9** of having "an electronic component having a connector", it is an **inherent function** of the connector to be connected to the electronic component, and MPEP 2100 states that the disclosure of a limitation may be expressed, implicit or **inherent**.

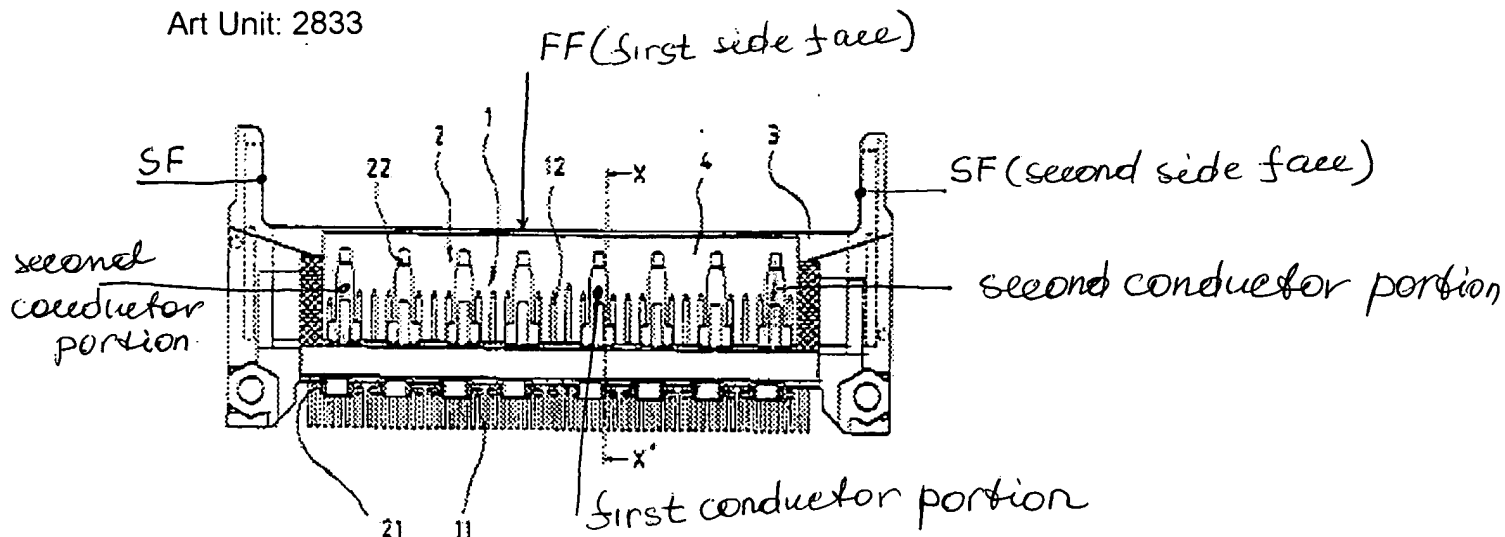
In regard to claims 3 and 10, Hirata discloses the first conductor portion 2 is for connect an edge of the card (see Fig.1).

In regard to claims 5 and 13, Hirata discloses another second conductor portions disposed in a vicinity of the other second side face of the housing space, the other second side face being opposite to the second side face, wherein the card is substantially rectangular (because of the space shape in Fig.1) and the **second conductor** portions are **symmetrically** disposed about the direction of inserting the card.

In regard to claims 7 and 18, Hirata discloses the board 6 is a printed wiring board, as claimed.

In regard to claims 8 and 20, Hirata discloses the contact 1 is for connecting the board 6.

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Attachment 1

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Trush et al. (5425651).

In regard to claim 1, Trush et al discloses a connector 10 for connecting a **grounded board 6**, the connector having a **housing 10** for housing a card 4 to be connected, the **housing 10** comprising:

a non-conductive housing main **body** (not marked) having a housing **space** (not marked, area 14) for housing the card 4, the housing space being defined by a first side face FF and opposing second side faces SF adjacent to the first side face FF;

a **contact 30c** for connecting the card 4 housed in the housing space, the contact 30b being disposed in the housing main body (see Fig.4);

a **first conductor portion 30b** for connecting the card 4 housed in the **housing space**, the first conductor portion 30b being disposed in vicinity of the first side face FF and insulated from the contact 30c; and

a second conductor portion 30a (side contacts 30a) disposed in a vicinity of the second side faces SF of the housing main body and insulated from the contact 30c;

whereby the first and second conductor portions escaping electric charge electrified on the card to the board when connected to the card and the board (see Col.4, lines 26-34 and 44-50).

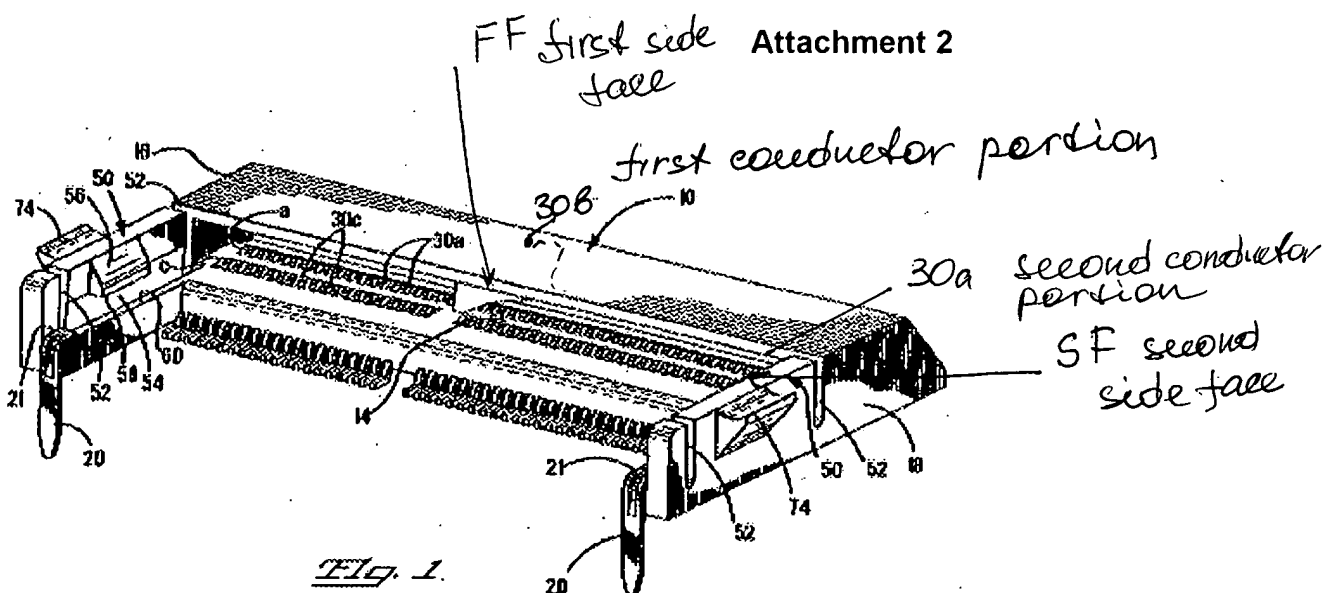
In regard to claim 2, Trush et al. discloses the first conductor portion 30b is disposed in a position to connect the card 4, which is not housed in the housing space (area 14, see Fig.3 and Col.4, lines 44-50).

In regard to claim 3, Trush et al. discloses the first conductor portion 30b is for connect an edge of the card (see Fig.3).

In regard to claim 17, Trush et al. disclose the board 6 is a printed wiring board, as claimed.

In regard to claim 20, Trush et al. disclose the contact 30c is for connecting the board

6.



Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21 - 24 are allowed.

Claims 6 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the limitation found in claims 6, 15 and 21 are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination. The current art of record does not disclose the limitations of "each of the first and second conductor portions has a flexible portion elastically deformable outside and **a lock piece** disposed along the flexible portion ..., whereby **the lock pieces** is pushed by the card to open outside when the card is inserted into the housing space, and **the lock pieces** lock the card when the card is housed in the housing space" in combination with the other limitations recited in claims 1 and 5.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/22/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's arguments regarding claims 1 and 9 that Hirata does not disclose the first conductor portion and Trush et al. do not disclose a second

conductor portion, Examiner disagrees. Claims 1 and 9 still can read on those references (see rejections and Attachments).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Larisa Z. Tsukerman whose telephone number is (571)-272-2015. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571)-272-2800 ex. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LT

03/17/2005



**ROSS GUSHI
PRIMARY EXAMINER**